

Register and Vote

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

District Board elections will be held in 1985 and Urban and Regional Council elections in 1986. The registration of voters is now in progress and will continue until the end of this month, that is the 30 September. These are very important developments in public administration in Hong Kong. They concern all of us. I want to remind you that we, as Catholic citizens of Hong Kong, should take a positive and active part in these matters. First, if eligible, you should take the trouble of registering as a voter. Then, when the time comes, you should take the trouble of voting according to your conscience for the candidates whom you judge the best. They should be persons of high moral caliber, great equilibrium, integrity, competence and courage (*Pacem in Terris*, No. 72).

The Church tells us: "All citizens should be mindful of their right and also of their duty to use their free vote to further the common good" (*Church in the Modern World*, No. 75). This is inherent in the dignity of the human person. To put it simply: no man is an island, no man goes his way alone. As citizens, we are members of

this community. We all want to make Hong Kong a prosperous, well ordered, free and just society, and a better and more human place for all of us to live in.

The Church also tells us, that “God, who has fatherly concern for everyone, has willed that all men should constitute one family and treat one another in a spirit of brotherhood” (Church in the Modern World, No. 24). We indeed are brothers and sisters in one spiritual family. As Christians, we know that our supreme law is love of God and love of our neighbour. One way of showing that love is by trying to improve the quality of life - in body, mind and spirit - for all in Hong Kong.

The quality of life and the future of Hong Kong depend to a large extent on our future administrators, and in the choice of administrators all of us have an important role to play. Once again I quote from the teaching of the Church: “Christian must be conscious of their specific and proper role in the life of the community: they should be a shining example by their sense of responsibility and their dedication to the common good” (Church in the Modern World, No. 75). “Guided by the light of the Gospel and the mind of the Church, and motivated by Christian love, they should act directly and definitively in temporal affairs” (Decree on the Laity, No. 7)

So, I exhort you again to begin to set this shining example and to act in public affairs. Take the first step of registering as a voter in good time, and when the election comes, vote according to your conscience. You will thus make your personal contribution to the good of all. This is our right and our duty. Let us use this right well. Let us do our duty.

God bless you all!

+ John Baptist Wu
The Bishop of Hong Kong
Feast of the Birth of Mary
8 September 1984